

## **ABSTRACT**

**A composite beam is disclosed. The beam includes an internal horizontal beam (5), a composite slab that is positioned on and supported by the beam, and a plurality of shear connectors (15), embedded in the cast concrete and welded to the beam and connecting the composite slab to the beam. The beam is characterised by a reinforcing component (19) that is positioned so that reinforcing elements (61, 63) of the reinforcing component intersect a conical-type failure surface around the shear connectors in at least two different, preferably perpendicular, directions.**